

EDITORIALS

Downtown Face Lifting

The active Retail Merchants Division in Torrance is hopeful of attracting the interest of downtown store owners and property landlords to the desirability of giving the business district some needed face lifting or at least a coat of new make-up.

Buildings that have been painted or improved with new fronts during the past year stand as examples of what can be accomplished at surprisingly low cost. Some stores have plans for remodeling on the drawing boards and others are going ahead with paint brushes that will bring about a marked change in the general appearance of the business section.

All of this effort is worthwhile and essential if the advantages of trading in the Torrance shopping district are to have favorable presentation. No business is more competitive today than retailing. A good retailer operates on the premise that things don't just stand still. An old paint job, a store front that looks exactly like it did 15 years ago, doesn't attract business which today goes where it is invited.

Pay for Planners

Recently, this newspaper advocated some sort of compensation for members of the City Council. While giving a thought to the men who serve long hours—often thankless—THE HERALD makes a similar suggestion for members of the Planning Commission.

Being a member of a planning body in many communities is often simple stuff. It is accepted as a matter of public service with the realization that tasks for the most part will be perfunctory and of short duration. But, in this city of rapid development, the men who make up the Torrance commission hold numerous hearings and make hundreds of decisions requiring a tremendous amount of time, energy, and sacrifice.

We believe members of the Planning Commission should be compensated for their services. We believe only the highest caliber of men and women should be selected for these important positions and that they should not be expected to give their time for nothing.

Kefauver's Insult

Senator Estes Kefauver, whose principle concern is his sack race for the Democratic party nomination next year, had the audacity last Sunday to tell the television audience that he was greatly concerned over the disregard of the people's rights by the Eisenhower administration. That's a good one and laughable if it were not for the seriousness of such irresponsible political twaddle on the part of a U.S. Senator.

Never have the rights of the American people had a greater exponent and defender than in President Eisenhower. He has given more than lip service to the basic principles of our American system and can be counted upon to do so as long as he occupies the White House. Kefauver knows this as well as anyone in the United States. He talks the way he does because his general stature is no greater than the small town politician who willingly smears any opponent that might keep him from victory in an election. He is not presidential timber, coonskin cap notwithstanding.

Despite the predictions of the Eisenhower detractors, America today is enjoying the greatest and soundest peacetime prosperity in history. The President's cabinet, made up of men and women who were outstanding successes before they ever accepted the call to office, has done a masterful job of running the nation's business. Secretary Dulles probably will go into history as one of this nation's greatest Secretaries of State. Certainly no man ever made as exhaustive an effort to preserve a peace in the face of conditions that would try the patience of a saint.

Americans as a whole appreciate sincerity and stature in their President. They can be proud of President Eisenhower and the greatness and humility he has brought to the White House. Democrats and Republicans together would gladly give him another term tomorrow if he asked for it.



LAW IN ACTION

CORPUS DELICTI

Police in totalitarian countries may nab you on vague charges, toss you in jail, and keep you there.

But in America the law makes us show two things before a court can even try you—or anybody else—for a crime:

1. We must show that somebody has committed a legally defined crime. This is the corpus delicti. You must show a fact and a criminal agency.
2. And we must show good reason to think that you may have done it (the information or indictment).

Alas, for some detective story writers! Have they made you think that the corpus delicti is the corpse of the beautiful blond crammed in a trunk? Don't believe it. Corpus delicti merely means the proof that somebody broke the law.

Suppose your banker comes to work some morning to find the doors of his money vault blasted off their hinges and the cash box gone. He and the police have enough to go on to say that there was a robbery or burglary.

You may think from your whodunnits that the district attorney must produce a corpse to prove a murder. Don't you believe it. He can prove murder in other ways. One California court convicted a man of killing and

tossing the body of a 15-year-old girl over the cliff into the ocean, even though no one ever did find the girl's body. What was the corpus delicti of this crime, the proof that the crime had been done? The man's discharged gun, blood on the car seat cover, the girl's school books, clothing in his possession, etc. And the reason for all this? Our courts must work under the law with evidence, not suspicion, that a legally defined crime has been done, and that the defendant did it. Law plus facts, ma'am.

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Tame Now?



Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

One of our local citizens visited her psychiatrist and complained that her husband was becoming a mental case because he insisted he was a refrigerator. She could put up with that, she stated, but she just couldn't stand it when he fell asleep with his mouth open and that little light kept her awake. . . . If you've bought a new car lately, this one's for you. You don't have to walk to the bank anymore with your deposits, not that you can now drive over instead but just that you don't have any money left to make a deposit. . . . I've got the dumbest dog on earth. I taught him how to take a lie detector test without making the needle jump, but every time he tells a whopper he wags his tail. . . . Traffic is so violent these days that you can't even expect any courtesy from those folks who borrow those Courtesy Cars. . . . The truck driver said to the police officer: "This man struck my parked moving van." So, if it was parked, how could it be moving? . . . Trouble with most of us today is that we're always expecting results by moving heaven and earth. What we ought to try is raising a little hell. . . . Breathes there a man with soul so dead who ne'er to himself hath said upon emerging from a supermarket: "Ten bucks spent and nothing to show?" . . . Description of this modern era: We're always speeding to save time so we can kill it later. . . . Attention to that fellow who has been attempting to persuade Uncle Sam to buy the rights to his new automatic pistol. Sorry, bub, but the Army just won't go for it. They're after that six-shooter seen on television that fires 28 times with out loading. . . . Excuse me, I gotta go. A little girl who used to make faces at me is now making eyes.

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The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ, Herald Staff Writer

The Mexicans may have thought that they killed Davy Crockett at the Alamo, but it looks like he got away from them. In fact, even now, he threatens to get completely out of hand.

Wise raccoons have headed for the hills in the wake of the Davy Crockett hat boom, since the price of their tails has tripled and the supply is threatening to run out. Not since Estes Kefauver ran for president, his coonskin cap in hand, has the raccoon been in such danger of losing his tail. If Kefauver runs again, the raccoon may soon become extinct. He won't be able to hold his own against the combined onslaught.

In view of the coonskin revival among the younger population, the Democrats might well consider an Estes Kefauver-Pess Parker presidential ticket in 1956.

Juvenile playground fights used to be over who would be Roy Rogers and who would be Trigger, or who would be the Lone Ranger and who would be Tonto. Now these perennial favorites, along with Superman, Hopalong Cassidy, and Gene Autry, have been discarded for Davy Crockett.

One mother reported, "In a way, I'm thankful to Davy Crockett. My boy used to wear five guns, but now he just wears a knife and carries a rifle, because that's what Davy Crockett carried." When Davy Crockett failed to show up for a recent appearance at a local park due to a mixup, the younger generation sent up the most agonized outcry in recent years. One of the newer local fads locally is mimeographing copies of the famous ballad, while youngsters sit on the front porch and sing.

A local mother reported that the main thing her 3-year-old son wanted for his birthday was a Davy Crockett record.

If the kids are glad about Davy Crockett and the raccoons are sad about him, I'm getting a little tired of him, although this may be a little like kicking Santa Claus.

It used to be that when I got up in the morning to the melodious tones of the clock radio, I heard commercials for backache pills. Now I'm just as likely to open my eyes to the strains of "Da-a-avy Crockett, king of the wild, wild frontiers!" I haven't decided whether I didn't like the backache pills better.

When I buy bread at the store, I find verses of the "Davy Crockett" on the label. When I get breakfast food, I find offers of Davy Crockett knives, compasses, and other gadgets on the outside of the box.

If I wanted to buy a stove or refrigerator, I could get a Davy Crockett tent as a free bonus. One of the latest gimmicks is the offer of an auto manufacturer to give away autographed pictures of Davy Crockett at showrooms, if mommy and daddy will come to see his car.

All over the place, I run into kids wearing Davy Crockett shirts, Davy Crockett pants, Davy Crockett jackets, Davy Crockett bathing suits, and Davy Crockett hats. They may be carrying Davy Crockett guitars, Davy Crockett lunchboxes, Davy Crockett knives, or Davy Crockett guns.

I'll bet if Davy Crockett could turn over in his grave and see what was going on, he would follow the raccoons into the hills. As for me, I'm still waiting for some Davy Crockett ear plugs.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

OSLO (Special to the HERALD)—I just came back from the secret NATO headquarters some 15 miles out of Oslo, which I saw started back in 1953, and which has grown into one of the foremost defense bases of NATO in Europe. It is absolutely hush-hush. . . . no figures are given out as military personnel or types of equipment buried in the hills and forests all around the base. I got inside all right, but I not only saw much more than the weather and the time of day. This I can report. . . . The Free World is setting up a military defense barrier in the far corners of the world bordering Russia that most certainly is having a bearing on Russia's more friendly attitude towards its neighbors and the West.

Without question Denmark, Norway and Sweden are on our side, especially Norway. Swedish talk of "neutrality" is more diplomatic than actual. Swedish officials I talked with from top to bottom are on the side of the U.S. in case of trouble. They realize that if war should come, Sweden can not remain neutral as she did in World Wars I and II. Scandinavia is militarily united. . . . although the bitterness of World War II has not subsided in the least. Swedes visiting Norway and Denmark are not exactly welcomed with open arms. People openly resent Sweden for its neutrality in World War II. . . . its profits and prosperity by doing business with both sides. . . . while Norway and Denmark were under Nazi occupation. But from a defense military point of view I heard nothing but the fullest cooperation between these nations.

Of the three Scandinavian countries, Norway is in the worst financial crisis in 50 years. I talked with old friends here in Oslo (this is my fourth trip in five years and I began coming here in 1931) and their examples of socialist impositions upon business and capital is hardly recognized in the U.S. Of course all Scandinavia is socialist, but Norway is controlled by such extremists that business is being hampered and unemployment increasing. Taxes on profits run as high as 70% on a small business with a net of \$50,000. Automobiles are almost taxed out of reach of even the upper middle class. A car that costs \$3,000 in Sweden for example, would cost

\$4,700 in Norway, plus a "luxury tax" of about \$1 a day for operating the car. A HUMBERT, which is in the Ford and Chevrolet price class sells for \$5,000 in Oslo.

Automobiles, appliances, household goods, etc., are priced in Sweden about the same as U.S. . . . but in Norway and Denmark they are considerably higher. The import duty on a car in Denmark is 145% which includes such terms as 80% tax. . . . 50% "turn over duty" (whatever that means) . . . and 15% duty. On top of that you must get a "permit" to buy a car and prove that you need it for business or professional use. If you own a car you can not trade it unless the government "condemns" it. . . . which means that if your car runs you can not trade it for a new one. For a car to be "condemned" by the authorities it must be practically beyond repair.

Norway and Sweden are as different as Alaska and New York! Norway is a large range unexplored country with terrific distances, rugged mountains and forests. . . . While Sweden for the most part is modern with buildings and industry and population scattered all over the country. Norway is about the size of New Mexico (125,000 square miles) but it's shaped like a spoon. . . . Sweden is about the size of California (170,000 square miles) and resembles its shape. Norway has about 3,200,000. . . . Sweden about 7,000,000. Both countries have Socialist governments. . . . both are constitutional monarchies with a king and parliament. . . . the Norwegians call it "Storting" and the Swedes "Riksdag." There is no night in Norway from April to September. . . . about the same in the north of Sweden. Norway is very hot in the summer. . . . Sweden mild. . . . Winters in both countries are about the same as in Detroit. The monetary unit in Norway is the krone, worth seven to the U.S. Dollar. Dinner in Norway is apt to be at 4:30 p.m. . . . tea and sandwiches at 9 p.m. Food in Sweden with its famous Smorgasbord is among the finest in the world. In Sweden the state religion is Lutheran. . . . in Norway while most of the population is Lutheran it is not a state religion. . . . Dry cleaning is the most

expensive in Europe. . . . \$2.50 per suit, \$3.50 in hotels and takes a week to get it back. Cigarettes 65c a pack. Good hotels charge from \$10 to \$20 per day for two. There is no "cocktail hour" (thank goodness for that) in Sweden. Dinners are formal with much toasting around the table, except no one toasts the hostess. The time in Norway and Sweden is six hours later than New York.

... and I Quote

"A speaker should remember that the mind can absorb only what the seat can endure."—Irene Reuter.

"What this country needs is a good five-seat bike."—L. R. P. Schoonheim.

"Our idea of a good job would be one where we could work eight hours and sleep eight—preferably the same eight!"—J. O. Jewett.

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On Nov. 1st, 1955, we are pleased to announce, we are placing on our transportation system four new General Motors AIR RIDE buses. These new buses are outstanding in every detail! From the quietness with which they perform on the city streets to the comfort with which they seat forty-five people.

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. . . to make this addition to our transportation system, which has served Torrance since 1941. As a consequence it is necessary to increase our rates on July 31st, 1955 to 15c for one zone, and 5c in addition for each zone line crossed, with the exception of north of Manchester and Hoover, which is 10c. Our fares have not been increased since April, 1950.

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